

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 PM-03 INR-05

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----- 062161

R 091410Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6238

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2123

LIMDIS

DEPT PLS PASS AMB KEATING

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IS, XF

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF HAIM HERZOG ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT

AS ISRAELI UN PERMREP

1. WE HAD OCCASION RECENTLY TO TALK TO ISRAELI UN PERMREP DESIGNATE, HAIM HERZOG, ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT. HERZOG SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED IT ONLY WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE. HE GAVE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THIS WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THOSE DEALING WITH HIM WHEN HE TAKES UP HIS POST IN AUGUST.

2. HERZOG SAID THAT HE WAS, IN THE FIRST PLACE, ENTIRELY SATISFIED CARRYING ON HIS PRESENT PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE AND ROLE AS A WELL-KNOWN AND SOUGHT-AFTER COMMENTATOR ON ISRAELI-ARAB POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS. SECONDLY, HE THOUGHT THE UN HAD BECOME DEGRADED AND DID NOT THINK THAT IT WAS A FORUM IN WHICH MAJOR DECISIONS ON ISRAEL'S FUTURE WOULD BE TAKEN. THE UN WAS VERY UNPOPULAR IN ISRAEL

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(HE THOUGHT IT WAS IN THE US, TOO) AND HIS WAS BOUND TO BE A

TOUGH JOB.

HE WASN'T CONCERNED ABOUT TAKING THE HEAT, BUT WANTED
TO USE HIS CAPABILITIES PRODUCTIVELY.

3. FINALLY, HE SAID, HE
HAD ASKED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME BEFORE TAKING UP
HIS POST BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN, IN SOME MATTERS, A STRONG CRITIC
OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE WOULD HAVE TO USE THE INTERVAL BETWEEN
NOW AND TAKING UP HIS POST IN AUGUST TO TONE DOWN HIS PUBLIC
CRITICISM OF GOI POLICIES, AS WELL AS TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE
GOI TOWARDS CHANGES IN SOME OF THEM. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED
THE GOVERNMENT'S PALESTINIAN POLICY. HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR
HE HAD BECOME CONVINCED, FOR REASONS BOTH OF POLICY AND
EXPEDIENCY, THAT THE GOI MUST DEVELOP A MORE FLEXIBLE WAY
TO DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. HE CLAIMED CREDIT
FOR HAVING DISCUSSED THIS WITH THEN-INFORMATION MINISTER
YAARIV WHO HAD ACCEPTED HERZOG'S SUGGESTION FOR A "YES..BUT"
APPROACH. YES, WE WILL TALK TO THE PLO, BUT ONLY WHEN THEY
RECOGNIZE OUR EXISTENCE AND ABANDON TERRORIST TACTICS TO
ATTAIN THEIR GOALS. YAARIV WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, MADE HIS
PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SHOT DOWN.
HERZOG THOUGHT THIS A COSTLY ERROR WHICH WOULD SOONER OR
LATER HAVE TO BE RECTIFIED. HE WOULD PREFER, HE SAID SOME-
WHAT WISTFULLY, THAT THIS HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE HE BEGAN
TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND ISRAELI POLICIES AS HER UN SPOKESMAN.
VELIOTES

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